IP Inpatient Discharges   **ED** Emergency Department   **AS** Ambulatory Surgery

Differences Between MIRCal and ALIRTS Reporting

This Issue of **Quick Notes** describes many of the similarities and differences between the Medical Information Reporting for California (MIRCal) system and the Automated Licensing Information and Report Tracking System (ALIRTS). These OSHPD systems are designed to facilitate data reporting and information by providing a readily available, secure, and flexible environment to reporting facilities.

OSHPD provides a side-by-side comparison of MIRCal and ALIRTS information in this issue to further communicate with our reporting partners about similarities and differences between these important reporting and informational systems. We hope this issue becomes a resource that you can reference over time.

MIRCal supports the operations of the OSHPD Patient Data Section (PDS). MIRCal was implemented in April 2002 as an improvement to the twice-a-year inpatient discharge data submission and manually intensive correction process used by more than 400 California hospitals.

Today, MIRCal processes over 3 million patient discharge records a year and provides turnaround reports to facilities within 24 hours. MIRCal is currently undergoing a system enhancement to accept emergency department and ambulatory surgery encounters.

Some key features and functions of **MIRCal** include:
- ➢ Secure Environment
- ➢ File Submission
- ➢ Online Data Entry and Submission
- ➢ Online Data Correction
- ➢ Interactive Computer Based Training Modules
- ➢ Capability to Test Data Submissions
- ➢ 24 Hour Reporting Turnaround
- ➢ Online Error Correction Features
- ➢ E-mail Notification of Data Status
- ➢ User Account Maintenance

ALIRTS supports the operations of the OSHPD Accounting and Reporting Systems Section (A&R). ALIRTS was implemented in August 2002 to replace the paper reports and is used by various healthcare entities for reporting the financial and utilization data required on the Annual Utilization Report.

ALIRTS provides a web-based technology for health facilities to submit their annual utilization data. The information from the submitted reports and licensing information can be viewed and printed. Information is available for Hospitals, Long-term Care Facilities, Primary Care Clinics, Specialty Clinics and Home Health Agencies/Hospices.

Some key features and functions of **ALIRTS** include:
- ➢ Secure Environment
- ➢ Report Entry
- ➢ View/Print Licensing Information
- ➢ View/Print Utilization Report Data
- ➢ On-Line Report Instructions
- ➢ On-Line Editing and Error Correction
- ➢ Submit Revised Reports
- ➢ Save Partial Reports

Comparison Between MIRCal and ALIRTS

	MIRCal	alirts
Contact Information	OSHPD Patient Data Section 818 K Street, Room 100 Sacramento, CA. 95814 (916) 323-7679	OSHPD Accounting & Reporting Systems Section 818 K Street, Room 400 Sacramento, CA. 95814 (916) 323-7685
Type of Data Accepted	Hospital Inpatient Discharges (IP) Emergency Department Encounters (ED) Ambulatory Surgery Encounters (AS)	Annual Utilization Data – license type, admissions, discharges, services and patient encounters, staffing, revenues, operating expenses, and capital expenditures.
Licensed Facilities Required to Report	Licensed Hospitals (IP) Licensed Hospitals with ED Licensed Hospitals with AS Freestanding Ambulatory Surgery	Hospital Long-term Care Facilities Primary Care Clinics Specialty Clinics Home Health Agencies/Hospices
Frequency of Reporting	*IP:* Twice a Year *ED & AS:* Quarterly	Annual (As a requirement for licensure)
Reporting Periods & Due Dates	*IP:* January-June due September 30 of the same year July-December due March 31 of the following year *ED & AS:* January-March due May 15 of the same year April-June due August 14 of the same year July-September due November 14 of the same year October-December due February 14 of the following year	*Hospital, Long-term Care Facilities, Primary Care Clinics, Specialty Clinics:* January-December due February 15 of the following year *Home Health Agencies/Hospices:* March 15 of the following year
Official Web Site Address	www.oshpd.ca.gov/hid/mircal	www.oshpd.ca.gov/hid/ALIRTS
Hours of Support	8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday (except for official State holidays)	
Hours of System Operation	24 hours/7 days a week, except for planned maintenance	
Minimum System Requirements	Access to a personal computer (with the following minimum configuration) ✓ 300MHz processor, 64 MB RAM, 4 GB hard drive (at least 500MB free) ✓ High speed Internet connection (preferred) or 56k modem or faster ✓ Microsoft Internet Explorer version 5.0 (or higher) ✓ 128-bit Secure Socket Layer (SSL). ✓ Adobe Acrobat Reader version 4.0 (or higher). ✓ Virus Checking Software ✓ File Compression Program ✓ E-mail account. Sends e-mail reminders and notices to the facility's primary contact and administrator.	

*** PROPOSED REGULATIONS ***

The 45-day Public comment period for the proposed Emergency Department and Ambulatory Surgery regulations will conclude at 5:00pm on Monday, October 4, 2004.

Any interested person may submit written comments or questions relevant to the proposed regulatory action to the Patient Data Section of OSHPD at any time during the 45-day public comment period. Written comments for OSHPD's consideration should be directed to the MIRCal mailbox at MIRCal@oshpd.ca.gov. E-mail is the preferred means for the submission of public comments. Written comments may also be mailed to Candace L. Diamond, Manager, Patient Data Section, 818 K Street, Room 100, Sacramento, California, 98514.

To obtain a copy of the proposed regulations, go to www.oshpd.ca.gov/hid/mircal.

*** IMPORTANT DATES ***

ED & AS Data Collection Project

Proposed Regulations	August 2004
Public Comment	August 20-October 4, 2004
Final Regulations	Fall 2004
CASA Convention	September 2004
CHIA/OSHPD Seminars	
Fresno	November 2, 2004
Los Angeles	November 3, 2004
San Diego	November 4, 2004
Pleasanton	November 8, 2004
Sacramento	November 10, 2004
MIRCal System Rollout	January/February 2005

ED & AS Proposed Due Dates:

Oct 1, 2004 - Dec 31, 2004	Due February 14, 2005
Jan 1, 2005 - Mar 31, 2005	Due May 15, 2005
Apr 1, 2005 - June 30, 2005	Due August 14, 2005
July 1, 2005 - Sept 30, 2005	Due November 14, 2005

ED & AS Proposed Extension Days:

A maximum of 28 extension days is proposed for reports in 2004.

CHIA/OSHPD SEMINAR: THE REPORTING AND USE OF PATIENT LEVEL DATA

In November 2004, OSHPD Patient Data Section staff will be presenting at a CHIA-sponsored seminar on the reporting and use of Patient Level Data. The seminar will include reporting requirements for inpatient, emergency department and ambulatory surgery data. These half-day seminars will be held in five locations - Fresno (Nov. 2), Los Angeles (Nov. 3), San Diego (Nov. 4), Pleasanton (Nov. 8) and Sacramento (Nov. 10).

Go to https://www.californiahia.org/page_930.cfm for complete details including dates, locations and registration information.